

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1 and 18 are independent.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication by telephone that paragraphs [0750], [0862] and [0959] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0271014 to Breed disclose an actuator.

The Office Action objects to claim 11. Claim 11 is amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. Claim 9 is amended to address this rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the Breed publication. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claim 1 recites, in combination with other claimed features, a process control system comprising measurement devices and actuators. All the measurement devices and actuators contain means for information processing and for data interchange between the measurement devices and actuators. All the measurement devices and actuators are connected by means for bidirectional data interchange.

Such features encompass Applicants' exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 1 wherein sensors 2a, 2b and 2c and actuator 3 each include the processor 1 and an interface 5. Each are connected via bidirectional data interchange 4d.

The Breed publication is directed to a vehicle diagnostic and prognostic method and system. As disclosed in paragraph [0193] the sensors 48, 49 measure

other parameters of other components that provide information directly or indirectly on the operation of a component 35. A diagnostic module 51 can also be attached to a vehicle data bus 50 and it can receive the signals generated by the various sensors. As described in paragraph [0750], an ultrasonic sensor may perform mathematical operations on received waves and create a vector of data containing values which may be transmitted to an interrogator. However, the sensor is only connected to a control module. There is no disclosure in either paragraph [0493] or [0750] that any of the actuators are connected to other sensors.

Paragraph [0043] of the Breed publication discloses a communication device may be arranged to direct transmission of the output of a diagnostic system to a remote location such as an internet enabled device possessed by an owner of a vehicle such as a PDA or the like. As disclosed in paragraph [0194], a diagnostic module 51 analyzes received data and this information is sent to an off vehicle location. Paragraph [0043] of the Breed publication does not disclose measurement devices and actuators contain means for information processing and for data interchange between the measurement devices and actuators, and for all the measurement devices and actuators being connected by means for bidirectional data interchange, as in Applicants' claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is distinguishable over the Breed publication.

Independent claim 18 is allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

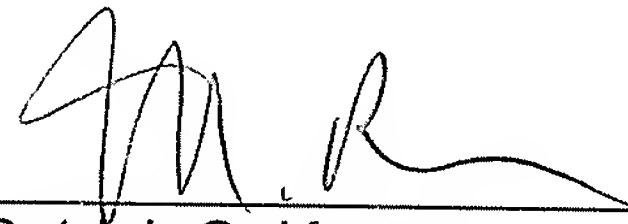
Should any questions arise in connection with the application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 17, 2008

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